Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled).

Claim 35 (currently amended): A thread for a vascular stent, implanted in vessels, the thread being formed by melt-spinning a first biodegradable polymer, wherein a layer of a second biodegradable polymer that contains a drug is formed on a thread surface, and wherein the first and second biodegradable polymers are composed of substantially the same ~~material~~biodegradable polymer.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 35, wherein the layer of second biodegradable polymer is formed by coating on the thread surface.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 35, wherein the first and second biodegradable polymers are composed of an aliphatic polyester.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 35, wherein said thread is a monofilament obtained by melt-spinning a biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and on drawing a resulting thread.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 35, wherein said thread is a multifilament obtained by melt-spinning a biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and on drawing a resulting thread.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 35, wherein said drug exhibits at least one of an antithrombotic effect and an intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 40, wherein said drug exhibiting the intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect is an immunosuppressive agent or an anticancer agent.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 35 wherein a first layer of the second biodegradable polymer and a second layer formed only of a third biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer are sequentially formed on the thread surface.

Claim 43 (previously presented): A thread for a vascular stent, implanted in vessels, the thread being formed by mixing a drug into a first biodegradable polymer and by melt-spinning the resulting biodegradable polymer, wherein a drug-containing layer of a second biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the first biodegradable polymer is formed on a thread surface.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 43 wherein said ~~second biodegradable polymer layer containing the drug~~ drug-containing layer of said second biodegradable polymer is formed by coating, on the thread surface, a drug-containing biodegradable polymer solution that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer constituting said thread.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 43 wherein the first biodegradable polymer constituting said thread is aliphatic polyester.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 43 wherein said thread is a monofilament obtained by melt-spinning a drug-containing biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and drawing the resulting thread.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 43 wherein said thread is a multifilament obtained by melt-spinning a drug-containing biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and drawing the resulting thread.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 43 wherein said drug exhibits at least one of an antithrombotic effect and an intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 48 wherein said drug exhibiting the intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect is an immunosuppressive agent or an anticancer agent.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The thread for a vascular stent according to claim 43 wherein a first layer of a drug-containing biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer forming the thread and a second layer formed only of a biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer forming the thread are sequentially formed on the thread surface.

Claim 51 (previously presented): A vascular stent implantable in vessels of a living body, comprising:

a main stent body formed by threads of a biodegradable polymer for a stent for vessels which are wound to a tube as each of the threads is bent in a zigzag design and is enlarged or contracted in diameter with the bends of the threads as displacing portions; wherein the threads

constituting the main stent body are formed by melt-spinning a biodegradable polymer, and a layer of a biodegradable polymer containing a drug that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer constituting the threads is formed on the surface of the threads.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein said biodegradable polymer constituting said thread is an aliphatic polyester.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein said thread is a monofilament obtained by melt-spinning a biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and drawing the resulting thread.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein said thread is a multifilament obtained by melt-spinning a biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and drawing the resulting thread.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein said drug exhibits at least one of an antithrombotic effect and an intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 55 wherein said drug exhibiting the intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect is an imrnunosuppressive agent or an anticancer agent.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein a first layer of a drug-containing biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer forming the thread and a second layer formed only of a

biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer forming the thread are sequentially formed on the thread surface.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein a biodegradable polymer solution that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer constituting said thread is coated on the surface of said main stent body.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 51 wherein a biodegradable polymer solution that is substantially the same as the material constituting said thread is deposited on the surface of said main stent body to form a biodegradable polymer layer.

Claim 60 (previously presented): A vascular stent implantable in vessels of a living body, comprising:

a main stent body formed by threads of a biodegradable polymer for a stent for vessels which are wound to a tube as each of the threads is bent in a zigzag design and is enlarged or contracted in diameter with the bends of the threads as displacing portions; wherein the threads constituting the main stent body are formed by melt-spinning a drug-containing biodegradable polymer, and a layer of a biodegradable polymer containing a drug that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer constituting the threads is formed on a surface of the threads.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein said biodegradable polymer constituting said thread is an aliphatic polyester.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein said thread is a monofilament obtained by melt-spinning a drug-containing biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and drawing the resulting thread.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein said thread is a multifilament obtained by melt-spinning a drug-containing biodegradable polymer using a screw extruder and drawing the resulting thread.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein said drug exhibits at least one of an antithrombotic effect and an intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 64 wherein said drug exhibiting the intimal hyperplasia suppressing effect is an immunosuppressive agent or an anticancer agent.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein a first layer of a drug-containing biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer forming the thread and a second layer formed only of a biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the biodegradable polymer forming the thread are sequentially formed on the thread surface.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein a biodegradable polymer solution that is substantially the same sort as the biodegradable polymer constituting said thread is coated on the surface of said main stent body.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The vascular stent according to claim 60 wherein a solution of a biodegradable polymer that is substantially the same as the material constituting said thread is deposited on the surface of said main stent body to form a biodegradable polymer layer.